

INCONVENIENCIES to the English Nation which have
ensued the Act of Navigation, in reference to the
Growths of Norway, as was proved before the Honou-
rable the Committee of Parliament upon Saturday
April 4. 1668.

1. **B**Efore the Act, the Trade of Norway was generally driven by the English in barter of our Growths and Manufactures; whereas now it is driven in Dollars, and the Treasure of the Nation: and those Growths and Manufactures of England which are exported into Norway are rarely exported but by Norwegians.

2. The prices of the Growths of Norway were become near double, untill about a week since.

3. Our own Timber is much wasted by reason of the dearness and scarcity of Norway-Timber.

4. We have not built one Ship for that Trade since the Act, nor never shall so long as it stands in force, because a foreign Ship may be built for half the price, and be more free for Trade: whereas the Norwegian hath doubled his Shipping since the Act, and built them twice as big as before: whereby the English in a short time must necessarily be excluded the Trade of Norway, unless he drive it by Danes in Danish Bottoms.

5. The English Mariners are now almost wholly laid aside, the Trade of Norway being generally driven by the English in Norway Bottoms, and those sailed by Norwegians.

6. The English are wholly left to the King of Denmark's disposing, without redress, when-ever he pleases to impose any farther Abuses upon them then are contained in the Proposals b.

7. It is the Interest of the King of Denmark to make the Trade of Norway insupportable to the English, for thereby his Subjects will monopolize the Trade.

8. The Shipping for the Newcastle and Sunderland Trade, which have been lost since the beginning of the last War, are not near repaired by the Prizes taken in the War; and before the War the Nation did consume the Coals returned by the Shipping of this Trade: and therefore if this Shipping be now divided into the Newcastle and Norway Trade, when we have much more occasion for Coals then before the War, it cannot reasonably be expected but the prices of Coals will be as uncertain and dear as during the War.

9. All the Shipping of Norway, and in the English Merchants hands for that Trade, will not supply one third part of our Markets with the Growths of Norway.

10. By the Act for Re-building the City, it is to be built in 3 years, and the Breast-Summer, Story-posts, outward Window-cases, lower Floors, and Roofs of every House, are to be of Oaken Timber; so as allowing 20 Loads of Oak to perform what the Act enjoyns in every House, and 12000 Houses to be built, this will amount to 240000 Loads of Oak to be expended in this thing onely, besides what must be spent in Back-houses, publick

and others 3 Dollars: and in measuring the Lattage, the same Ships which before the late War had their Measures adjusted, are now raised 35 & 40 Lasts.

*And hath
increased his
Mariners
from 600 to
above 6000.

b The Abuses
complained
of in the
Proposals
were: The
Engl. since the
year 1646, &
by the Treas-
ury made with
his Majesty
1660, paid
of a Dollar
Customs per
Last for the
Growths of
Norway,
(except the
Town of Ber-
gen:) since
the late War
they pay for
Customs for
Timber a
Dollar and
half, & for o-
ther Growths
a Dollar and
 $\frac{1}{2}$, others 2
Dollars $\frac{1}{2}$.

20.

A

Halls

Halls and Churches, Posts, Rails, Balconies, &c. Quære where in *England* such quantities of Oaken Timber can be found. But if they could, and be thus converted, it is demonstrable, the King of *Denmark* and the *Dutch* may build 3 men of War, and of equal dimensions, as cheap as the King of *England* shall doe one, and in less time. And how the Sovereignty of the Seas can be preserved, how the Nation secured, and how Navigation maintained upon these terms, the *English* not being permitted to buy and trade in any forein Bottom, is not imaginable. Besides, the City is to be re-built in little more then 2 years, and yet we are denied $\frac{1}{3}$ of the most necessary Commodity in order to it.

ADVANTAGES which in reason will accrue to the English Nation, by Repealing the A^t for Navigation, so far as it relates to the Growths of Norway, upon the Conditions mentioned in the Propofalls.

1. **T**HE *English* will be encouraged in this Trade, being enabled to drive it upon better terms then any other Nation.
2. It will not be in the power of the King of *Denmark* much to prejudice us, though he should ruine his Subjects by it, for the Reasons in the Propofalls.
3. Our Markets will be supplied in abundance and at low Rates, whereby
4. The City will save above 500000 pound in Building, and may be re-built in half the time it otherwaies can be^a.
5. Our own Timber upon all occasions will be preserved, when *Norway*-Timber may be bought cheaper then our own.
6. We shall be enabled to build Ships for this and the Fishing-Trade as well as the *Dutch* or any other Nation.
7. As the *Norwegian* by reason of the A^t (whereby the King of *Denmark* hath reaped more Benefit then all his Predecessors ever did by all the Trade and Treaties they made with any Nation, and all by the loss and prejudice of the *English*) hath been enabled to build and encrease his Shipping; so the Repealing of the A^t will disable him for the future, whereby the *English* Merchant may drive the Trade of *Norway* upon the account of our own Manufactures. In the time of *Oliver* the *English* Merchant was under-hand permitted to drive this Trade in forein Bottoms, whereby the *Norwegian* was enforced to sell the Shipping he had built for this Trade.
8. The Treasure of the Nation exported by the *English* and *Norwegian* will be much preserved in it.
9. We may better expect the Growths of *Norway*, imported by any other Nation, will be returned for our Manufactures, then from *Norwegians*.

The reason conceived why these things are not more known, is, because of the paucity of the *Norway*-Traders; and that, as the case stands with them, if they complain, and be not relieved, it will be in the power of the King of *Denmark* to oppress them, and not in the power of the King of *England* to relieve them.

^a The prices when this Paper was given in were, Timber 58 s. per Load, Deals 7 l. 10 s. a Hundred, which before the A^t were 28 s. per Load, and 4 l. 8 s. a Hundred: so allowing 12000 Houses to be built, and 18 Load of Timber and 400 Deals to a House, this will amount to 468000, besides the Timber to be used in Back-houses, publick Halls and Churches. But if the *Norwegian* Fleet be divided into this Trade, Cea's will bear a double price, from whence Brick and Lime will necessarily bear a proportionable Rate.

Certain QUÆRES resolved by the Norway Merchants.

1. **T**Hat when these Ships in the *English* Merchants hands for the Trade of *Norway* be spent, if the *Act of Navigation* continue in force, there will not be one Ship left in the *English* hands fit for that Trade.

This being so, and the *Act* continuing in force, it cannot be expected but that all Navigation must necessarily sink, and the *English* be left to the sole disposing of the King of *Denmark*, whose Interest will be so much more improved, by how much he imposes upon the *English*.

2. When the Ships in the *English* hands be spent, a *Norwegian* may import the Growths of *Norway* cheaper by 30 in the Hundred, then an *English*-man can in a Ship not built for that Trade.

This being so, the *English* Merchant will be utterly incapable of employing any *English* Mariners in this Trade, unless he intends to undoe himself in it. Though Timber in Queen *Eliz.* Reign were fourfold more then now it is, and there were not the tenth part of the use of it as now; and though the *Act* 1 *Eliz.* 13. did under Penalties prohibit the importation of forein Growths by her Subjects in any Ships but *English*-built; yet Fir-Timber, Rafts, Deal-boards, &c. were excepted.

3. That in the Timber-Fleet now or lately in the River there was not one Ship *English*-built, or sailed by *English*: and that in one week after it was reported and believed the Trade for Timber would be made free, (at least for some time) the price of Deals fell above 30 s. in a hundred, which otherwise they would not have done: and if the Merchant were assured the Trade would be free, he would sell them 20 s. a hundred cheaper, whereby the Nation will save above 8000 pound in this Fleet, which otherwise would have been exported by Foreiners.

REASONS humbly offered to the Parliament, that the Duties to be paid by Strangers who import Timber for Re-building the City of London should be employed toward the re-building the Churches, and relief of the Hospitals of Christ and S. Bartholomew.

1. **I**T is not the City of *London* now standing, but the desolate City in its Ruines, which pays this mony; and therefore most reasonable that this desolate City should enjoy the benefit.

2. Though the Law enjoyns the Parson and Parish to repair the Church, yet no Law compells either to build the Church; but if it did, it were *summum jus* to exact it from those Citizens who suffer under so great a Calamity as the late dreadfull Fire.

3. It will be no diminution to the King's Revenue; for it is not petitioned but the King shall enjoy the Customs paid by the *English* and *Norwegian* as before.

(4)

4. The *King* will be annually threefold a greater saver by the prices of *Norway-Timber* in building and repairing his Navy and Palaces, when the *Act* permits the Importation of Timber, then his Customs for Timber have yet amounted to yearly.

5. It will no waies conduce to the Honour of the *King* to have his Revenue increased by those of his suffering Subjects onely, who labour under so great a Judgment as the late *Fire*, and are endeavouring so good a Work as the Re-edifying the City.

6. The Piety and Zeal of our Auncestors, heretofore so eminent in building Churches, is not so prevalent in the minds of the men of this present Age.

7. It will be Scandalous to the Christian World, if in Re-edifying the City, no care or provision be made for the Churches.

8. It will be destructive to the City when re-built, if the means for Education of the poorer sort of the Youth of the City be suppressed; and the *King* and Nation will suffer so much, by how much *S. Bartholomew's* will be disabled to relieve sick and wounded persons.